

COMMITMENT



Texas Department of Health
Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

September 1999

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Rescreening Plan Review Continues

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) state office staff continue to review provider breast cancer rescreening plans. Each provider was required to review and resubmit a plan following the recent training sessions on rescreening. Following the review, State office staff will contact providers with comments and to discuss individual plans. The minimum elements for a rescreening plan are listed in the breast cancer rescreening protocol and appear below:

- The routine provision of verbal counseling during each woman's clinic visit on the need for regular screening;
- The regular review of rescreening service dates for each client in the priority population;
- The presence of a recall system for each woman. A recall system is a system to remind a woman when she should have her next regular screening. This includes initiating and documenting the mailing of the reminder notice approximately one month prior to her service date;
- The timely assessment and documentation of the eligibility of each woman contacted for rescreening; and



"Recipe for a Successful Recall System" – Kelly Wright, (right) Case Manager with the YWCA of Abilene presented her recipe for rescreening at the training held in Austin on July 21. Assisting Kelly is Chris Allen, Administrative Assistant with the YWCA of Abilene.

- The availability of timely rescreening appointments and rescreening services.

BCCCP strongly recommends that each provider designate someone to monitor your rescreening plan throughout this new project period. Call Stephen Wright, Public Information Coordinator, or Karen Knox, Case Management Coordinator, at (800) 452-1955 for more information on rescreening.

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BCCCP Briefs

Announcement



Congratulations to Codie Prinz, Public Health Technician at the State office, on the birth of her daughter, Rebekah. She will be on maternity leave until October 4, 1999.



Training:

"Breast & Cervical Cancer Education for Nurses" is a workshop for health care professionals who are involved in breast and cervical cancer screening. The workshop is scheduled for September 11, 1999 at St. David's Health Resource Center Auditorium, Austin. For registration information, call (800) 515-6770



Who to Call & How to Reach Us...

General Information/Administration:

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Local Changes

Please write or call Rhonda Jones, Administrative Technician, at (800) 452-1955 with **ANY** changes in local telephone numbers, personnel or service delivery sites. *Thank you.*

Medical Misinformation on Internet

Cruising the information superhighway for medical advice may be a road block to receiving accurate information.

With more than 20,000 websites dedicated to health, there are plenty of details about every conceivable condition. But how reliable is the information? According to a recent Harris poll, 60 million Americans currently search the Internet for health information. The largest number seek information about depression, followed by allergies, cancer, manic depression and arthritis.

The most important things to find out: who is putting the information out there and what is their motive?

Leaders in both business and medicine agree that the Internet is already revolutionizing medicine as patients learn to find reliable information - putting lots of pressure on doctors to stay informed.

Many patients see the Internet as a crucial part of their efforts to stay alive and fully expect to challenge their doctors if necessary.

◆ Review the site with a critical eye to determine if the information comes from a reputable source, such

as a well-known hospital or health-advocacy group. Also look to see if the site provides a contact name and phone number

◆ Ask if the site is professionally managed, has an editorial board and peer review to ensure that the material is credible and reliable.

◆ Check for dates when time-sensitive, clinical content is posted and updated.

◆ Beware of sites that tout their own products for sale or whose webmasters may have a conflict of interest. Who is presenting the information? Do they have anything to gain from writing it from a particular point of view?

◆ Be wary of sites that tout themselves as the sole source of information on a topic, and sites that disrespect other source of information.

◆ Don't be swayed by links - any website can link to another, giving it some stature.

◆ Don't trust any physician who proposes to diagnose or treat online.

◆ Don't trust what you see on the Internet unless you can validate who stands behind the information.

Update on MOO

Watch your mail for the revised Manual of Operations (MOO) for the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP). Providers should receive their updated copy in late September. If you have any questions regarding the MOO, contact Rhonda Jones, Administrative Technician, at (800) 452-1955.

Mission

The mission of the Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is to reduce the impact of breast and cervical cancer in Texas by promoting access to quality information, screening, diagnosis and treatment in Texas communities.

Goal

The goal of the Texas Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program is to reduce premature mortality from breast cancer and cervical cancer in Texas.

BCCCP Participates in Mammography Survey

One important goal of the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP), funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is to promote rescreening to ensure that the benefits of early detection and treatment are available for all women.

Preliminary Program data indicates that rescreening rates may be lower among women who receive an initial mammogram through the NBCCEDP than among the general population. However, rescreening rates estimated from Program data may substantially underestimate true rescreening rates because most state programs are unable to track women who lose eligibility for the program.

Therefore, CDC is conducting the "Survey on Mammography Rescreening (SMR)" to estimate the rates of mammography rescreening among women who receive mammograms through the NBCCEDP. The survey also will identify factors that promote or discourage timely rescreening. Batelle's Centers for Public Health Research and Evaluation, a not-for-profit contract research firm, is serving as the data coordinating center for the SMR.

Four states were chosen to participate in the study - Texas, Maryland, New York and Ohio. In each state, 500 women with a normal or benign mammogram and 125 women with a probably benign index mammogram will be inter-

viewed by telephone. Women will be asked questions about their mammogram history data, health behavior, their knowledge of the risk and efficacy of mammograms, and some demographic information. Interviews will be completed in both English and Spanish. Each woman



Survey on Mammography Screening (SMR) -- Dolores Eufracio is the Project Coordinator for Texas for the SMR conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

who agrees to participate will be mailed \$25 as a thank you.

In addition to the interview, copies of mammography reports for examinations reported during the interview will be collected. These reports will be used to document mammography dates and results. Screening literature indicates that many older women do not recall the exact dates of their mammograms.

Dolores Eufracio will serve as the Project Coordinator for Texas. She will be responsible for mailing the introductory letter, locating eligible women, contacting women, and enrolling women in the study. Ms. Eufracio also will be responsible for scheduling interviews and obtaining copies of the study participants' mammography reports. If you have any questions regarding the SMR, contact Dolores Eufracio at (800) 452-1955.

M.D. Anderson Classes Offered

M.D. Anderson will offer the following classes for FY2000:

Breast Cancer Only:

September 27-30, 1999

January 10-13, 2000

June 12-15, 2000

Gynecology Cancer Only:

Fall date to be announced

Breast and Gynecologic Cancer

Comprehensive:

October 11 -14, 1999

March 14 -17, 2000

July 17 - 20, 2000

Colposcopy (for Nurse Practitioners only):

October 5 - 7, 1999

February 1 -3, 2000

May 2 - 4, 2000

For more information on these courses, please contact Karen McAnarney, R.N., Nurse Consultant, at (800) 452-1955.

Note to providers:

The Indicator insert included in August's Commitment was incorrect. Please replace it with the enclosed insert.

Commitment Suggestions Helpful

Thank you to all who responded to the *Commitment* survey. We received many favorable comments on the content of *Commitment*. We are incorporating your suggestions including continuation of "Important Dates" and "Upcoming Events".

Continue to let us know what you want to see in *Commitment*. We are always open for suggestions. Contact Andrea Littlefield, Information Specialist, at (800) 452-1955.

Here to Serve You

Fall Trainings Set for November

Watch your mail for details on November training workshops! All providers will be sent information on assigned training sites and dates.

For further information, contact Rhonnda Jones, Administrative Technician, at (800) 452-1955.

BCCCP Statistics*

Women Served:

114,597

Breast Screenings:

143,221

Cervical Screenings:

106,061

Breast Cancers:

737

Cervical Carcinoma in situ:

1579

Invasive Cervical Cancer:

53



For the benefit of new provider staff, we continue to introduce state office staff. Pictured above are Christina Rogers (left), Administrative Technician and Shannon Burke, Staff Services Officer. Call staff at (800) 452-1955.

Important Dates

September

September - Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

September 1 - New Rescreening Policy goes into effect

FY2000 Contract Period Begins

September 6 - Labor Day

State Office Closed

September 11 - NOEP Breast & Cervical Cancer Education

Conference, Austin

September 29 - Public Health

Grand Rounds "Breast Cancer Screening: More Than Just Mammograms", Austin

October

October - Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October - Tell A Friend

October 1- Breast Cancer Awareness Day (Wreath Project)

November

November - Fall Training

November 4 - Austin

November 10 - Corpus Christi

November 16 - Houston

November 18 - Fort Worth

November 30 - December 2

National Conference on Chronic Disease Prevention and Control, Dallas

*As of August 6, 1999

Commitment

A monthly bulletin

Send news/information to:

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED